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Demyelination and neurological signs in experimental allergic encephalomyelitis.

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Because of the reported absence of demyelination in some animals with neurological signs of experimental allergic encephalomyelitis (EAE), it has been suggested that these signs are not due to demyelination. The present study demonstrates that there is ample demyelination in the central nervous system (CNS) and peripheral nervous system (PNS) to account for the neurological signs in rats with myelin basic protein (MBP)-induced acute EAE as well as in rats and rabbits with whole-spinal-cord-induced acute EAE. The main reasons for failure to detect demyelination in animals with neurological signs of EAE appear to be inadequate histological techniques and incomplete examination of the nervous system, particularly the PNS and the lumbar, sacral and coccygeal segments of the spinal cord.

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